

Welsh *on Film*

"THE OLD
CURIOSITY
SHOP"

from the work of
CHARLES DICKENS

Jury's



The OLD
CURIOSITY
SHOP

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*A Superb screen
adaptation of
CHARLES DICKENS
Immortal Works
Produced by
Thomas Bentley
Welsh Pearson Film*



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WELSH-PEARSON FILM

"The OLD CURIOSITY SHOP"

A Screen Adaptation of Charles Dickens' Immortal Work

Produced under the sole direction of Thomas Bentley

A few Press Opinions

The perfect Dickens' film play—a great achievement. Whilst the stage has failed so signally to give us a live and convincing representation of Dickens' work that is really worthy of the original, despite the innumerable attempts that have been made to do so, the film dramatist has stepped into the breach and lo! we have the perfect Dickens' film. It simply breathes the spirit of the original. A film play which more nearly approaches its original in fidelity, actuality, atmosphere, and interest, than any of its predecessors—a universal attraction. The characters of the old man and his granddaughter Nell and her Grandfather might have been made for the screen. The picturesque and pathetic type which stand out so effectively in the original novel. And this Bentley version of the famous and much-read novel is a new departure in the art of the screen.

The Film Renter.

The Old Curiosity Shop is pronounced to be a triumphant success; nearly two hundred invited guests, including the greatest Dickens' picture ever filmed. They called it a masterpiece. They gave the producer, Thomas Bentley, who is an expert in the art of the screen, an ovation—the great audience applauded with enthusiasm.

Evening News.

It stands as a credit to the art of the English screen, and

The Cinema.

from every point of view it is a splendid proposition.

Daily News.

Simply told, and lovers of Little Nell will watch with moist eyes

The Referee.

Bentley, is of an exceptionally high standard, who witnessed it. Lovers of Dickens have a

Westminster Gazette.

for a very clever adaptation of the old story, at the cinemas. It is so delightfully English

The People.

on Screen Art. It is probable that the universal "Curiosity Shop" welcome anywhere.

Kinematograph Weekly.

of Dickens' scenes and characters is presented in this novel. As a whole the picture is a sincere and dignified

The Bioscope.

AUG 23 1921

HERE is a tale which has been told with this great Dickens tale, and to try and convey the spirit, the pathos, the humour, and the pathos of the great author has crowded into his work would be an impossibility in so small a space at our disposal. To recall the story, the following brief outline will doubtless be sufficient to revive in their memories the scenes and characters that go to make up this immortal, and ever popular novel.

Little Nell is devoted to her gambling grandfather with whom she lives in "The Old Curiosity Shop." The old man's one desire is to ensure for his granddaughter a future free from pecuniary worries. He borrows money from an evil-minded dwarf, Daniel Quilp, but gambles it away. The villainous Quilp takes possession of "The Old Curiosity Shop," turning the old man and the child into the streets. Like a dream-child in a nightmare land of horrors, Nell pursues her sorrowful way with her helpless old grandfather, as her only friend and companion. They meet two partners in a Punch and Judy show, Codlin and Short, who befriend them. About this time the old man's brother leaves for London, and his coach passes them on the way. The brother finds Quilp in possession of the shop. He tells the crafty Quilp that he must find his brother and the girl, since Nell has inherited a fortune, and proffers a reward for their discovery. At a country inn, where they are staying, Nell is terrified by one of the Showmen and persuades her grandfather to leave them. From there they take to the open road and meet the genial Mrs. Jarley, owner of a famous wax-work exhibition, who takes compassion on them and engages Nell as an assistant in the show. With the wax figures for ever on her mind the child suffers horrible dreams and again she persuaded the old man to move on. Meantime, the brother had heard of their whereabouts, but when close on their track, Quilp provided him with false information which made the brother return to London. Deprived of the necessities of life, Little Nell grows weaker and weaker until she falls exhausted. A kindly schoolmaster affords them a lodging in an old cathedral, but Little Nell never really recovers, and after a short time under the schoolmaster's tender care she passed away.

Shortly after her death the brother found them, but all the money in the world could not replace Little Nell, and the grandfather joined the spirit of his beloved in the great beyond; but not before the rascally Quilp had paid for his machinations by drowning in his endeavour to escape the police.

A splendid cast includes Mabel Poulton as "Little Nell," William Lugg as the "Grandfather," Bryan Powley as the "Brother," Hugh E. Wright as "Codlin" and Pino Conti as "Quilp."

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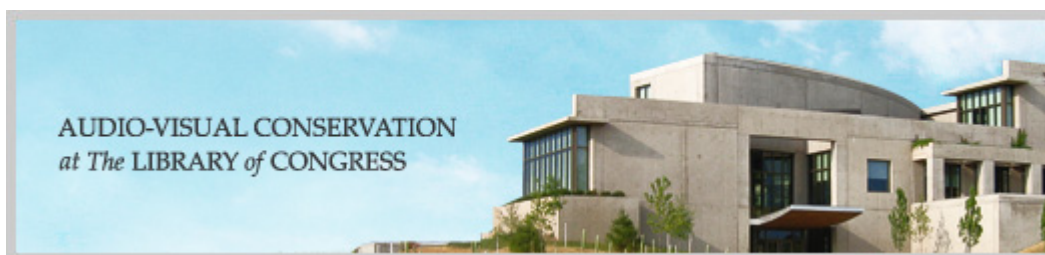
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